



Massachusetts Emergency Food Assistance Program (MEFAP)

Fiscal Year 2021 Core Food & Mass Grown Summary Report July 1, 2020 – December 31, 2021

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Massachusetts Emergency Food Assistance Program (MEFAP) Highlights of Fiscal Year 2021

- Since the start of COVID-19, Massachusetts has experienced a 59% increase in food insecurity among individuals and 102% for children, the highest in the nation, and a 360% increase in SNAP applications. (Source: Feeding America)
- 1 in 7 individuals in the Commonwealth are in need, compared with 1 in 11 prior to COVID.
- 1 in 5 children in the Commonwealth are in need, compared with 1 in 10 prior to COVID.
- Nationally, food-at-home prices increased 3.5% in 2021, with no food categories decreasing in price in 2021 compared with 2020. (Source: USDA Economic Research Service, Food Price Outlook Summary Findings)
- 894 emergency food programs across the state were supported with product purchased with MEFAP funds.
- Total MEFAP funding for MEFAP FY21 was \$30M, an increase of \$10M or 50% over FY20.
- 13 vendors were awarded contracts to supply Core Food products
 - An additional 21 vendors supplied Core Food produce through the program, 2 additional vendors supplied seafood, and 1 vendor supplied pre-packed meal boxes
 - Of the 37 Core Food vendors, 24 were Massachusetts-based companies, comprising 36% of the Core Food spend.
- 163 different items were purchased with Core Food funds.
- 25 Massachusetts farms were supported by Mass Grown purchases.
- 77 different types of fresh produce, poultry, and dairy items were purchased with Mass Grown funds.
- The Food Bank Coalition of Massachusetts served an average of 831,000 clients per month in calendar year 2021.
- A total of 143,053,325 pounds were distributed through the four Massachusetts food banks between July 2020 & June 2021, an increase of 25.4% over prior year.
- A total of 35,224,374 pounds were distributed through MEFAP in FY21 – a 25.4% increase over FY20.
 - Of this total, 31,509,766 pounds were distributed through the Core Food program between July 2020 & June 2021.
 - 3,714,608 pounds were distributed through the Mass Grown program between Jan & Dec 2021.
- A total of 29,353,645 meals were provided through MEFAP, an increase of 7.0 million meals over FY20.

Massachusetts Emergency Food Assistance Program (MEFAP)
Fiscal Year 2021 Summary Report

Core Food July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021

Mass Grown January 1, 2021 – December 31, 2021

The Massachusetts Emergency Food Assistance Program (MEFAP) provides food products for food insecure residents in the Commonwealth. Through the program, a consistent supply of quality, nutrient-dense foods and locally grown fresh produce has been provided through the statewide food bank network to nearly 1000 emergency food providers. The program has recently been expanded to also include locally sourced seafood products. MEFAP consists of two food purchasing programs: Core Food, which runs from July to June, accounts for 92.3% of funding for food purchases; The Massachusetts Grown Initiative, which runs on the calendar year due to Massachusetts' growing season, accounts for 7.7% of food purchase funding; an administrative charge of 2% is retained by the Dept. of Agricultural Resources. Both the Core Food and Mass Grown programs are administered by The Greater Boston Food Bank on behalf of the Food Bank Coalition of Massachusetts (FBCMA). This report summarizes both programs for MEFAP Fiscal Year 2021 (FY21).

Summary

The Meal Gap¹ in Massachusetts has grown 20% compared to 2019. <Insert some comment about increased need since pandemic onset which has not subsided>. Based on this significant need, the FBCMA has responded with increased purchasing in order to distribute more food and MEFAP continues to play a vital role in that response. The food bank system in Massachusetts provides a consistent supply of quality, nutrient-rich foods and locally grown fresh produce every day. With the increased demand for food, increased cost of food, and supply chain disruptions, MEFAP provides a consistent and reliable source of staple items to food pantries and other feeding programs in the state. Current MEFAP funding, combined with our other food supply channels (USDA, donation, and privately fundraised purchases), enables FBCMA to meet about 80% of the current Meal Gap (151.2 million meals) in Massachusetts².

Between July 2020 and June 2021, The Food Bank Coalition of Massachusetts collectively distributed 143.1 million pounds of food (total across all food sources), an increase of 27.5% over the prior year and 64.1% greater than 2019 distribution. A key driver of this increase was the significant rise in MEFAP funding for FY21, which has allowed MEFAP distribution to increase by 25.4%. This additional MEFAP funding, alongside sustained elevated purchasing levels through private funding, has allowed food banks to continue to elevate and sustain food distribution to meet the historical levels of need in the commonwealth. During FY21, MEFAP accounted for 24.6% of the statewide food bank distribution compared with 25.0% in FY20 and 31.2% in FY19. While MEFAP has increased significantly, USDA foods and privately funded food purchases as part of the COVID-19 response have also continued to increase, which accounts for the relatively level percentages between FY21 and FY20. Accounting for one fourth of statewide food bank distribution volume, MEFAP remains a significant and critical piece of the statewide effort to address food insecurity.

¹ Gundersen, C., Strayer, M., Dewey, A., Hake, M., & Engelhard, E. (2021). *Map the Meal Gap 2021: An Analysis of County and Congressional District Food Insecurity and County Food Cost in the United States in 2019*. Feeding America.

² *ibid*

While MEFAP distributed pounds were up by 25%, this compared with a 50% increase in funding. This imbalance in increased distributed pounds relative to funding increase was driven by: 1) significant cost inflation across many existing food categories, 2) increased prioritization of local seafood purchases, leading to a higher average cost per pound, 3) pandemic response purchases of pre-packed meal boxes, which further raised average cost per pound. Core Food purchases saw an increase of 18.5%, from \$0.66/lb in FY20 to \$0.79/lb in FY21. Mass Grown purchases saw an increase of 12.5% from \$.51/lb to \$.57/lb. Due to pandemic induced supply chain disruptions including port congestion, packaging shortages, labor disruptions, and transportation/driver shortages, supply volatility and pricing increases (particularly for items like eggs, poultry, and produce) have persisted. Weather also played a factor in the 2021 Mass Grown season, with significant rain impacting availability and pricing.

Supply challenges brought on by COVID-19 persisted during the FY21 year and the stability of MEFAP contracts and supplier relationships highlights the unique and critical role MEFAP plays in the stability of the state's hunger relief & food systems. Vendor contracts in Core Food ensured a steady supply of items such as eggs, peanut butter, pasta, 100% juice and poultry to agencies during periods of limited availability in the supply chain. Core Food funds set aside for produce offer another flexibility not only to increase produce variety to agencies, but also as a secondary support stream for Mass farms when needed.

Nutrition continues to be a foundational priority for MEFAP purchases to ensure that clients served receive quality, nutrient dense products, including produce, proteins, and dairy products. In the FY21 MEFAP year, 99.3% of distributed pounds met the coalition's standards for nutrition, based on saturated fat, sodium, and sugar content.

While the main objective of MEFAP is to provide food products to food insecure populations through balancing cost, variety, and nutrition, care is taken to prioritize local purchasing and supporting Massachusetts industry where economically and logistically feasible. In FY21, 39.3% or \$11.2M of all MEFAP dollars were spent with Massachusetts based suppliers, supporting local industry and economy. Of Core Food purchases, 34.2% of funding was spent with Massachusetts based vendors.

Program Funding

Total funding for MEFAP increased by 50% or \$10M from FY20. Total funding for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020 was \$30,000,000. A breakdown of the funding is contained in Table 1 below and a summary history of MEFAP funding and meals distributed is contained in Table 9. In FY21, the Department of Agricultural Resources continued to manage both the food purchases funds, including funding for the Massachusetts Grown Initiative, and the operation funds.

Table 1: FY21 MEFAP Funding

Core Food Funding	\$26,229,301.14
Massachusetts Grown Initiative	\$2,190,698.86
Operation Funding	\$1,000,000.00
DAR Administrative Fee	\$580,000.00
Total Funding	\$30,000,000.00

The Food Bank Coalition of

Massachusetts

The Food Bank Coalition of Massachusetts (FBCMA) includes The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts (FBWM) located in Hatfield, The Greater Boston Food Bank (GBFB) located in

Boston, Merrimack Valley Food Bank (MVFB) located in Lowell, and Worcester County Food Bank (WCFB) located in Shrewsbury. Each is a private, nonprofit 501(c) 3 corporation that distributes surplus, reclaimed, and other donated foods, purchased food, and foods provided by USDA through The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) and Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP). U.S. Census Bureau service area population and poverty statistics as well as clients served are used to determine the allocation of MEFAP funds to the four food banks. The distribution formula for FY21 MEFAP funds along with changes from FY20 percentages is detailed in Table 2 below.

Table 2: Allocation of FY20 MEFAP Funds within the Food Bank Coalition of MA

Food Bank	Location	Percent*	Percent Change
GBFB	Boston	68.64%	↓ -0.60%
WCFB	Shrewsbury	12.08%	↑ 0.67%
FBWM	Hatfield	13.42%	→ 0.00%
MVFB	Lowell	5.86%	→ -0.07%

*Percentages based on US Census and Feeding America statistics.

The statewide emergency food distribution network reaches every community in the Commonwealth. All agencies must serve individuals and families most in need of emergency food resources. By reducing food costs for member feeding agencies and providing high-quality nutritious food, MEFAP plays a vital role in reducing hunger and supporting nutrition in the Commonwealth. During the MEFAP FY21 year, 894 emergency providers received MEFAP products. These programs include pantries, soup kitchens, transitional houses, shelters and senior centers. As shown in Table 3 below, the overall number of agencies receiving MEFAP product declined by 1.0% in FY21.

MEFAP-distributed food represented 24.6% of the overall total pounds distributed by the four Massachusetts food banks in FY21, a slight decrease from FY20 when MEFAP accounted for 25.0% of distribution. MEFAP remains an important and reliable buffer to the volatility of other product streams. While other food sources for food banks – donations from food retailers, manufacturers and processors as well as federal commodities received through the USDA – are susceptible to potentially significant change from year to year, FBCMA and the agencies and clients they serve can depend on MEFAP as a stable source of healthy food products.

*Table 3: FY20 Massachusetts Regional Food Banks Total Distribution**

Food Bank	Emergency Agencies Served	% Change	Total Pounds from All Sources	% Change	MEFAP % of Total Pounds	% Change
GBFB	484	↓ -11.7%	115,705,891	↑ 32.7%	21.0%	↓ -6.3%
WCFB	91	↑ 5.8%	7,369,306	↑ 1.8%	58.7%	↑ 20.5%
FBWM	228	↑ 28.8%	15,216,116	↑ 10.5%	29.6%	↑ 16.5%
MVFB	91	↓ -1.1%	4,762,011	↑ 20.2%	43.9%	↑ 15.6%
Total	894	↓ -1.0%	143,053,324	↑ 27.5%	24.6%	↓ -1.6%

*Table includes overall pounds distributed from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021.

Table 4: FY20 MEFAP Distribution*

MEFAP Distribution							
Food Bank	MEFAP Core Food	% Change	MEFAP Mass Grown	% Change	MEFAP Total Pounds	MEFAP Total Meals**	% Change
GBFB	21,589,732	↑ 22.9%	2,708,814	↑ 36.8%	24,298,546	20,248,788	↑ 24.3%
WCFB	4,009,530	↑ 31.7%	317,502	↓ -34.3%	4,327,032	3,605,860	↑ 22.7%
FBWM	3,982,371	↑ 22.5%	524,751	↑ 108.9%	4,507,122	3,755,935	↑ 28.7%
MVFB	1,928,133	↑ 38.0%	163,541	↑ 50.8%	2,091,674	1,743,062	↑ 39.0%
Total	31,509,766	↑ 24.7%	3,714,608	↑ 31.6%	35,224,374	29,353,645	↑ 25.4%

*Table includes Core Food pounds distributed from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021 and Mass Grown pounds distributed between Jan 1, 2021 & December 31, 2021.

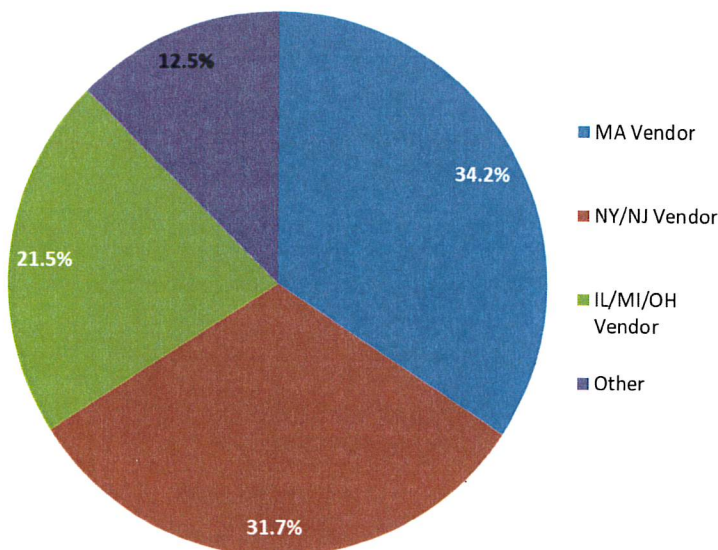
MEFAP Food Purchases

MEFAP consists of two food purchasing programs: Core Food and the Massachusetts Grown Initiative. Core Food purchases and distribution statistics are for the period July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021. Due to the seasonality of the Mass growing season, Mass Grown purchases and distribution statistics are for the period January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021.

Core Food

FBCMA purchased and distributed 31.5 million pounds of food through the Core Food program, accounting for 89.5% of total MEFAP distribution in FY21. The Core Food program supports purchases across a wide variety of product categories, allowing the FBCMA to consistently distribute a broad and sustainable assortment of key, nutritious products through distribution sites to clients in need. In FY21, 34.2% of all Core Food funds were spent with Massachusetts based vendors. See Chart 1 below for breakdown of Core Food spend by vendor location.

Chart 1: FY21 MEFAP Core Food Spend by Vendor State*



*Vendor state indicates location of company headquarters

Core Food FY21 Bid and Contracts

The majority of food purchased through the Core Food program is sourced from vendors selected through a competitive bid process. Annual contracts for all items (excluding produce, seafood, and pre-packed meal boxes) were awarded to vendors whose submitted bids offered the best value to the food banks and state based on a combination of factors – product pricing, price timeframes, product quality and nutritional value, logistical capabilities, local vs. out of state, company service record and past performance – with pricing being the primary consideration. Food safety documentation continues to be an important requirement of the Core Food Bid both to safeguard the populations served by FBCMA and to remain aligned with the FDA Food Safety Modernization Act. Bidders are required to provide letters of material guarantee from all manufacturers represented as well as third party food safety audit certificates for all food processing facilities. All four food banks were very satisfied by the customer service supplied by the 13 awarded Core Food vendors. Table 5 below summarizes the award by vendor.

Table 5: FY21 Core Food Bid Vendors

Bid Vendor	Location	Items Awarded	Spend
Port Royal Sales	Woodbury, NY	Tuna, beans, soups, peas, corn, carrots, mixed vegetables, domestic canned fruit & vegetables, pasta, spaghetti sauce	\$6,067,414.70
Feeding America	Chicago, IL	Shelf stable milk, toasted oats, oatmeal, green beans, white and brown rice, canned chicken	\$4,024,662.35
Performance Food Group	Springfield, MA	American cheese, yogurt	\$2,384,302.30
Broccoli Associates	Utica, NY	Ground turkey, pork loin, chicken thighs and drumsticks, pollock, holiday turkeys, mac & cheese	\$2,236,182.10
B & B Trading Corporation	Boston, MA	Eggs, whole chickens, split chicken breasts	\$2,023,920.20
New England Food Brokerage	Stoughton, MA	Ground beef, frozen vegetables	\$920,950.20
The Leavitt Corporation	Everett, MA	Peanut Butter	\$879,648.00
McLane Group International	Houston, TX	Cereal	\$701,520.57
NEMCO Food Trading	Lakeville, MA	Imported canned fruit	\$699,938.10
CEBEV	Chicago, IL	Juice	\$604,383.17
Burnette Foods	Elk Rapids, MI	Applesauce	\$312,960.00
Garelick Farms	Franklin, MA	Fresh milk	\$282,424.70
Simco Sales, Inc.	Los Angeles, CA	Canned vegetables substitute items	\$140,440.40

Core Food Produce

Core Food produce orders are placed based on weekly availability and pricing from a wide pool of in-state and out-of-state farms, produce sheds, suppliers, and brokers. In addition to the \$23.7M in Core Food awarded spending through the 13 awarded vendors detailed above, an additional \$2.6M of Core Food funds were spent on produce purchases, an 87.5% increase over FY20. As part of the effort to increase the volume of fresh produce in the program and to help keep overall costs per pound in the program low, GBFB coordinated purchases of Grade A produce items from a large pool of vendors throughout the year.

Refer to Table 6 below for a breakdown of the spend of these Core Food produce funds. Special attention was paid for these produce purchases to not interfere with Mass Grown Initiative ordering; items sourced were either not available through Mass Grown or were ordered off-season.

Table 6: FY21 Core Food Produce Vendors

Produce Vendor	Location	Items Purchased	Spend
Del Monte Fresh Produce	Chicago, IL	Avocado, bananas, melons, pineapple	\$493,026.50
DiSilva Fruit	Chelsea, MA	Citrus, pineapple	\$489,349.75
Tourtellot & Co.	Warwick, RI	Apples, avocado, broccoli, melons, cauliflower, cucumbers, eggplant, lettuce, mangoes, peaches, peppers, pineapples, salad mix, squash, tomatoes	\$463,028.75
S. Strock & Co.	Chelsea, MA	Melons, pineapple, salad mix	\$330,172.40
R.S. Hanline & Co.	Shelby, OH	Mangoes, melons, pineapple	\$217,204.10
Western Harvest	Quebec, CAN	Apples, cabbage, carrots, celery, cucumbers, onions, sweet potatoes, turnips	\$203,163.70
Pioneer Valley Growers Association	S. Deerfield, MA	Apples, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, collard greens, lettuce, potatoes, squash, sweet potatoes, turnips	\$156,672.00
Farmer Dave's	Dracut, MA	Apples, collard greens, kale, squash	\$58,840.00
Community-Suffolk	Everett, MA	Carrots, tomatoes	\$44,531.00
Joseph P. Sullivan & Co.	Ayer, MA	Apples	\$34,545.00
Davidian's Farm Market	Northborough, MA	Apples	\$26,280.00
Hapco Farms, LLC	Riverhead, NY	Broccoli, cauliflower	\$16,220.00
Honey Pot Farm, LLC	Hatfield, MA	Cabbage, squash	\$14,164.00
Boston Area Gleaners, Inc.	Waltham, MA	Apples, squash	\$12,050.00
Farmer's Choice Inc.	Wauchula, FL	Melons	\$11,480.00
Oakdale Farms	Dighton, MA	Carrots, onions, potatoes	\$7,800.00
Chiquita Brands, LLC	Atlanta, GA	Bananas	\$6,825.60
Ward's Berry Farm	Sharon, MA	Cranberries	\$4,350.00
Travers Fruit Co Inc	Chelsea, MA	Strawberries	\$3,360.00
Joe Czajkowski Farm	Hadley, MA	Squash	\$2,070.00

Core Food Seafood and Pandemic Response Vendors

New to Core Food in FY21, FBCMA launched a local seafood pilot program as well as purchases of pre-packed meal boxes as a pandemic response tool. The seafood pilot consisted of partnering with two local Massachusetts seafood organizations to collaboratively identify items that would fit MEFAP and food bank specs while providing an additional source of nutritious, locally sourced protein products to food insecure populations. The program also allows for the expansion of MEFAP's support of local Massachusetts industry with planned growth in future years. The meal box program was implemented in mid FY21 to provide shelf-stable, staple products in an easy to distribute format that would maximize social distancing and outdoor distribution efforts at partner

sites. The initiative will not be renewed in future years due to normalizing of distributions as the pandemic subsides. Refer to Table 7 below for a breakdown of the spend on these new Core Food efforts.

Table 7: FY21 Core Food Seafood and Pandemic Response Item Vendors

Vendor	Location	Items Purchased	Spend
Cape Cod Commercial Fishermen's Association	Wellfleet, MA	Seafood Chowder	\$448,329.00
Boston Sword & Tuna	Boston, MA	Pollock	\$165,600.00
The Pantry Foodservices	Berlin, CT	Pre-packed 'Family Meal Boxes'	\$1,766,214.50

Core Food Product Categories and Cost per Pound

The core food assortment is intentionally selected each year to provide a consistent supply of highly nutritious staple products with a focus on produce, protein, and dairy. Adjustments to the assortment are made annually based on feedback from FBCMA distribution sites and past year supplier and item performance. FBCMA continues to focus on balancing the twin objectives of maximizing the meals distributed through the program while also meeting the needs of those served by our member agencies.

The percentages by product category remained largely the same from FY20, with meat & protein, produce, canned / frozen vegetables & fruit, and dairy comprising over 75% of total distribution volume. See Chart 2 below for a breakdown of MEFAP Core Food items distributed by product category.

As shown in Chart 3, beef, poultry, and seafood continue to be the highest cost per pound categories in the program but are also a focus for FBCMA and the agencies we serve. Additionally, dairy, egg, and meat items can be subject to volatile pricing changes during the year. These higher costs are in part off-set by the lower cost per pound of fresh produce and non-meat protein categories that are also a focus.

In FY21, 13,700 turkeys, representing 0.8% of Core Food funding, were purchased with MEFAP Core Food funds and distributed over the Thanksgiving holiday season. The quantity dropped by 1,500 turkeys compared to FY20 due to cost increases in storage considerations.

Chart 2: FY21 Core Food Product Category Mix by Pounds Distributed

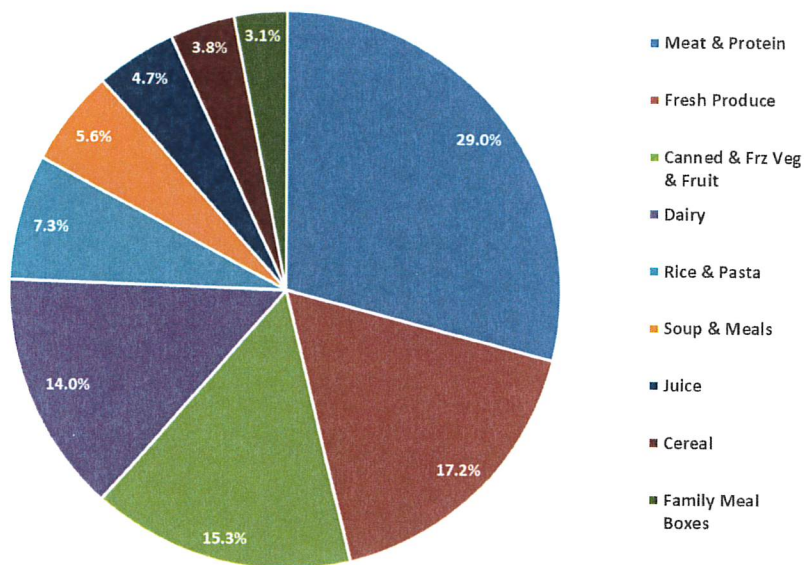
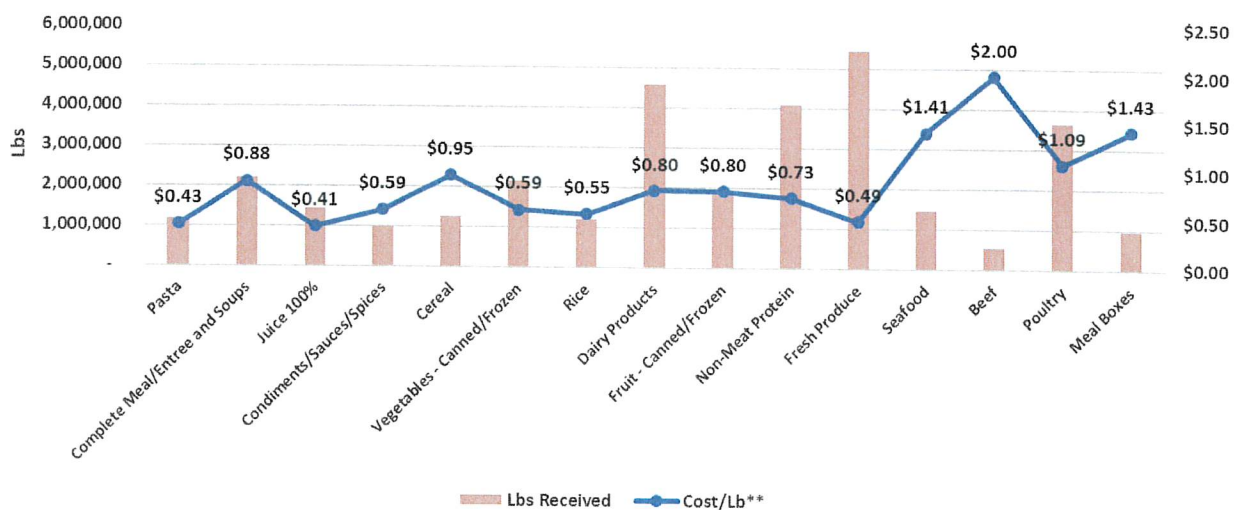


Chart 3: FY21 MEFAP Core Food Cost per Pound by Category



Massachusetts Grown Initiative

The Massachusetts Grown Initiative (Mass Grown) was introduced into MEFAP to give food insecure individuals access to fresh produce, while simultaneously opening a new market for local farmers. The program has successfully re-invested MEFAP funds into Massachusetts' agricultural industry since it began, and it is currently in its 23rd year. The Mass Grown Initiative aids the four regional food banks in their effort to maximize the nutritional value of distributed food. As the four regional food banks continue to focus on increasing the volume of fresh produce and nutrient-rich food acquired and distributed, the Mass Grown Initiative provides a vital opportunity to source top quality products, locally. In FY21, the Mass Grown year ran from January 1st through December 31st, 2021.

Mass Grown Spend & Partner Farms

Mass Grown funding was \$2,190,698.86 in FY21, an increase of 52.4% over FY20. The Mass Grown allocation comprised 7.7% of total of food purchase funding, which was unchanged from FY20. Each food bank selects their own percentage of total funding for food to apply toward Mass Grown. In FY21, FBWM allocated 8.5% of their food purchase funding for Mass Grown, GBFB 8.0%, and WCFB and MVFB allocated 6.0%.

In FY21 the regional food banks distributed 3,714,608 pounds of Massachusetts Grown produce, dairy, and poultry. This represents an increase of 31.6% over the FY20 total of 2,823,434 pounds and was driven by the overall increase in MEFAP funding in FY21.

Food bank hunger-relief member agencies appreciated the variety as well as the quality of the items available during the most recent Mass Grown season. FBCMA continued to expand our Mass Grown partnerships in FY21, purchasing from 26 local farms in FY21 vs. 19 in FY20. Our largest Mass Grown partner continues to be Pioneer Valley Growers Association, which sources from 50 partner farms across western Massachusetts. The spend has continued to move away from a concentration on the top 4-5 partner farms and larger local brokers toward independent family farms such as Szawlowski Potato Farm and Honey Pot Farm. We have also continued to build on our partnership with the Boston Area Gleaners, which sources from many Massachusetts farms who may not have the means to meet our capacity standards on their own. We hope to continue this trend of broadening participation in the program. Table 8 below is a listing of all partner farms who provided product to FBCMA during Mass Grown FY21.

Table 8: FY2021 Mass Grown Farms

Farm	City	Amount Spent
Pioneer Valley Growers Association	South Deerfield, MA	\$606,123.00
Farmer Dave's LLC	Dracut, MA	\$271,866.00
Michael Davidian dba Davidian's Farm Market LLC	Northborough, MA	\$187,823.00
Szawlowski Potato Farm Inc	Hatfield, MA	\$184,162.50
Matthew Manheim	South Deerfield, MA	\$135,146.50
Ward's Berry Farm	Sharon, MA.	\$119,564.50
New England Apple Products Company	Leominster, MA	\$118,837.44
Honey Pot Farm, LLC	Hatfield, MA.	\$116,943.00
Boston Area Gleaners, Inc.	Acton, MA.	\$72,917.00
Lookout Farms, LLC	South Natick, MA.	\$52,864.00
Laura Smith (Oakdale Farms)	Dighton, MA.	\$43,750.00
Reed Farm, LLC	Sunderland, MA.	\$43,200.00
Joseph P. Sullivan & Co., Inc	Ayer, MA.	\$40,110.00
Mapleline Farm LLC	Hadley, MA	\$28,390.05
Atlas Farm LLC	Deerfield, MA.	\$25,096.00
McKinstry Market Garden, Inc.	Chicopee, MA.	\$24,557.75
Sidehill Farm, LLC	Hawley, MA.	\$19,180.80
Plainville Farm	Hadley, MA.	\$15,699.10
Harrison W. Bardwell	Hatfield, MA.	\$11,158.92
Anthony Wendolowski	Hatfield, MA.	\$8,926.48

J.M. Pasiecznik Farms, LLC	South Deerfield, MA.	\$8,760.00
Davidian Bros. Farm	Northborough, MA.	\$6,720.00
Joe Czajkowski Farm	Hadley, MA.	\$4,418.24
Mark Wendolowski	Hatfield, MA.	\$1,728.00
Walter Czajkowski	Hadley, MA.	\$480.00

Produce, Dairy, and Poultry

Of the 3,714,608 pounds of food distributed through Mass Grown, 98.4% was fresh produce, 1.4% was local milk and yogurt, and 0.2% locally raised poultry. Non-produce pounds sourced through Mass Grown has declined slightly vs FY20 as the food banks continue to focus on purchasing lower cost per pound produce items with Mass Grown funds in order to maximize the impact of the funding.

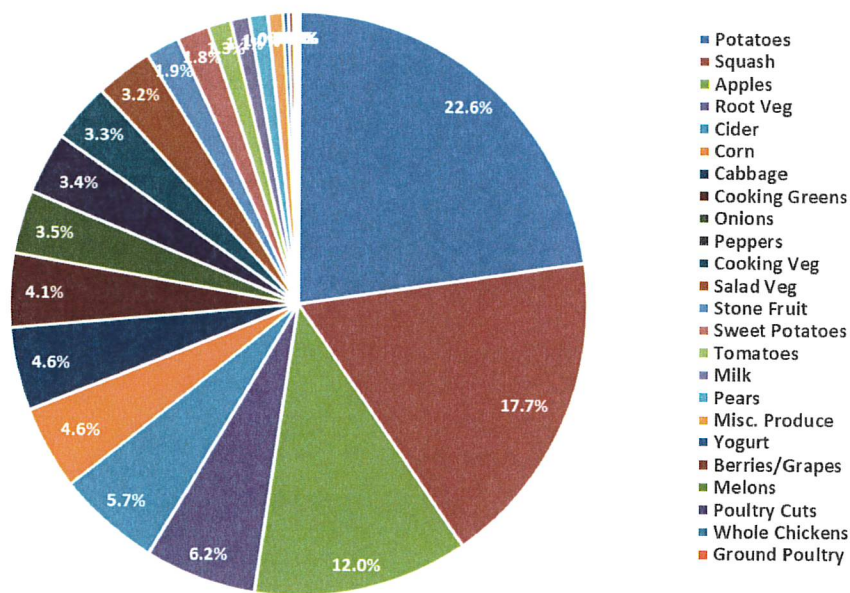
Item Mix

The variety of produce offered by Massachusetts farms has been instrumental in supplementing other food bank produce sources to provide a selection of fruits and vegetables from which food bank agencies can choose. It is crucial that food banks are able to source staple crops, such as potatoes, apples, onions, carrots, and cabbage, through the Mass Grown Initiative.

FBCMA works closely with participating farms, meeting prior to the growing season to collaborate with participating farms on their growing plans; this effort ensures both that desired product will be available to the food banks and that farms are not left with excess product. As food bank ordering priorities shift, it is important that these changes are shared with the farms as Mass Grown Initiative purchasing is a significant portion of some of the participating farms annual sales.

Potatoes replaced squash and apples as the highest volume category in 2021, accounting for 23% of the Mass Grown distribution. Squash moved to 2nd at 18% and apples 3rd at 12%. Corn, which was not available in FY20 due to drought, returned in FY21 as the 6th highest volume item. Chart 4 below details pounds distributed by category.

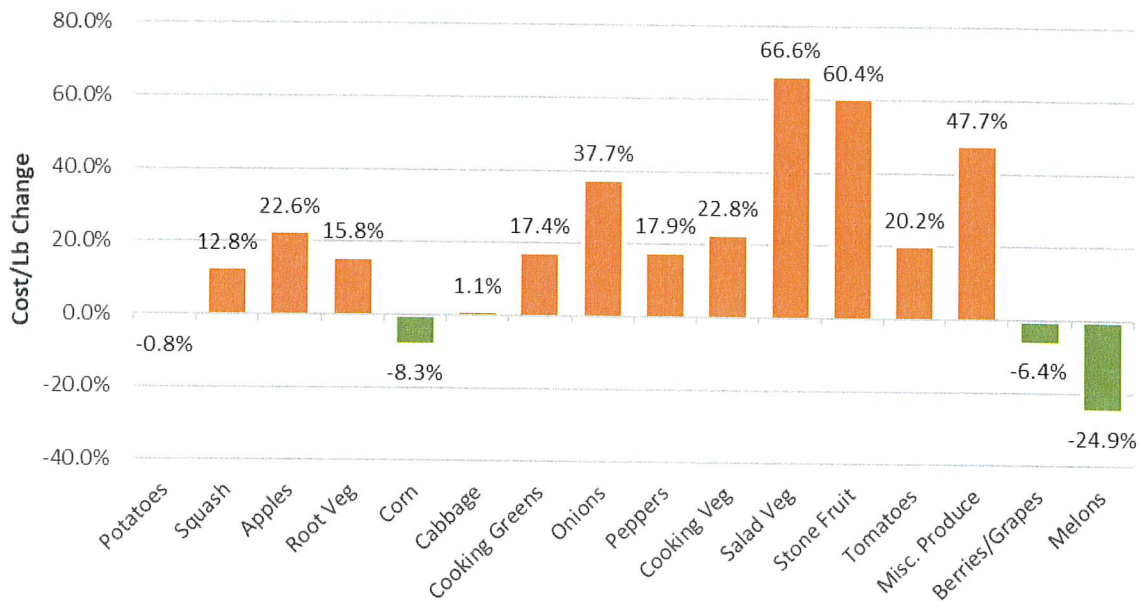
Chart 4: FY21 MEFAP Mass Grown Pounds by Category



Mass Grown Cost Per Pound

There was an overall increase in the cost paid per pound of 12.5% across all categories procured through the program. This cost increase was driven by a variety of factors impacting the agricultural sector, including labor shortages, transportation challenges, and weather issues, all of which impacted supply and drove up pricing. Despite this increase in overall cost per pound, the food banks were able to increase Mass Grown distribution thanks to increased overall MEFAP funding and expanded farm participation. Chart 5 below details changes in costs by produce category compared against last year.

Chart 5: FY21 Cost per Pound Changes by Mass Grown Produce Category



Operation Funding Supports Distribution

The Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources managed operating funds to support the distribution of food. The food banks use the percentages in Table 2 to equitably allocate funds according to poverty statistics for the population served by each food bank. Food bank Operating Funds remained level at \$1M in FY21 as maximizing funding for food purchasing continues to be prioritized. The operating funds are applied to the costs of labor associated with receiving, warehousing, transporting, and distributing MEFAP product; Table 10 below details the funding history for the program. FBCMA continues to raise additional private funds to cover the full cost of distribution.

Table 9: MEFAP Funding History

Fiscal Year	Total Funding	Operating Funding*	Nutrition Education Funding	Mass Grown Initiative Funding	Core Food Funding	Meals Distributed through MEFAP
		DOE 7051-0015	DFA 2511-0105	DFA 2511-0105	DFA 2511-0105	
1995 & 1996**	\$1,000,000.00	\$142,000.00	-	-	\$858,000.00	--
1997	\$1,000,000.00	\$142,000.00	-	-	\$858,000.00	1,176,128
1998	\$3,448,000.00	\$448,000.00	-	-	\$3,000,000.00	3,748,435
1999	\$7,430,000.00	\$1,000,000.00	\$150,000.00	\$260,000.00	\$6,020,000.00	5,176,882
2000	\$7,430,000.00	\$1,000,000.00	\$150,000.00	\$300,000.00	\$5,980,000.00	4,972,956
2001	\$7,430,000.00	\$1,000,000.00	\$150,000.00	\$300,000.00	\$5,950,000.00	6,261,695
2002	\$7,360,000.00	\$930,000.00	\$150,000.00	\$330,000.00	\$5,950,000.00	6,408,176
2003	\$7,185,600.00	\$830,600.00	\$75,000.00	\$330,000.00	\$5,950,000.00	6,038,672
2004	\$7,027,000.00	\$747,000.00	\$0.00	\$330,000.00	\$5,950,000.00	7,036,356
2005	\$7,027,000.00	\$747,000.00	\$0.00	\$330,000.00	\$5,950,000.00	6,927,565
2006	\$7,027,000.00	\$747,000.00	\$0.00	\$330,000.00	\$6,113,252.00	6,927,565
2007	\$13,250,000.00	\$1,250,000.00	\$0.00	\$600,000.00	\$11,400,000.00	12,770,887
2008	\$12,137,000.00	\$1,247,000.00	\$0.00	\$550,000.00	\$10,340,000.00	12,482,075
2009	\$13,127,000.00	\$1,247,000.00	\$0.00	\$600,000.00	\$11,280,000.00	11,535,297
2010	\$12,509,518.00	\$1,239,518.00	\$0.00	\$575,000.00	\$10,695,000.00	13,219,524

2011	\$12,500,000.00	\$1,230,000.00	\$0.00	\$690,000.00	\$10,580,000.00	14,122,817
2012	\$12,500,000.00	\$1,230,000.00	\$0.00	\$690,000.00	\$10,580,000.00	12,641,443
DFA 2511-0105						
2013	\$13,000,000.00	\$1,240,000.00	\$0.00	\$720,000.00	\$11,040,000.00	13,838,476***
2014	\$14,000,000.00	\$1,260,000.00	\$0.00	\$780,000.00	\$11,960,000.00	16,089,423
2015	\$15,000,000.00	\$1,280,000.00	\$0.00	\$840,000.00	\$12,880,000.00	16,697,380
2016	\$17,000,000.00	\$1,320,000.00	\$0.00	\$1,088,704.00	\$14,591,296.00	18,819,628
2017	\$17,000,000.00	\$1,320,000.00	\$0.00	\$1,222,048.00	\$14,457,952.00	20,979,361
2018	\$17,413,831.00	\$1,328,276.62	\$0.00	\$1,229,065.04	\$14,856,489.34	22,356,343
2019	\$18,000,000.00	\$1,340,000.00	\$0.00	\$1,284,027.85	\$15,375,972.15	22,653,636
2020	\$20,000,000.00	\$1,380,000.00	\$0.00	\$1,437,519.86	\$17,182,480.14	23,404,229
2021	\$30,000,000.00	\$1,580,000.00	\$0.00	\$2,190,698.86	\$26,229,301.14	29,353,645
2022	\$30,000,000.00	\$1,580,000.00	\$0.00	\$2,201,129.00	\$26,218,871.00	TBD

* Operation Funding Includes funds provided to The Coalition of MA Food Banks and the Admin Fee retained by MDAR.

**Meals data not available for FY1995 and FY1996.

***The formula for calculating meals distributed was adjusted in FY13 from 1.3 pounds of food / a meal to 1.2 pounds.

Conclusion

In FY21, FBCMA distributed more than 35 million pounds of MEFAP food, representing over 29 million meals, to those in need throughout the Commonwealth. FBCMA continues to find creative ways to stretch funding dollars and maximize meals distributed with program funds, respond strategically to challenging market and supply chain conditions, and reinvest in Massachusetts by partnering with and prioritizing in-state vendors, all while providing an assortment of commodities most needed by emergency food providers and those they serve.

As we work toward bridging the Meal Gap in the Commonwealth, FBCMA relies on continued MEFAP funding. While MEFAP funding has increased, MEFAP as a percentage of total food bank distribution has remained flat vs FY20, highlighting the need in communities that continues to persist at historic levels and the support required to address it. MEFAP remains a critical piece of the response to food insecurity in the Commonwealth. Without MEFAP, FBCMA would not have been able to distribute an unprecedented 143M pounds of food over the past year.

FBCMA and their teams would like to acknowledge the support of the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources, the Governor's Office, the Lieutenant Governor's Office, and the Legislature for their commitment to help end hunger in Massachusetts. For more information on the specific programs and activities of FBCMA please note the following contact information:



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Help OTHERS**

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